

**Senate File 2183 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2183

BY DANIELSON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the operation of authorized emergency  
2 vehicles and snow plows, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.1, Code 2018, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 20C. "*Emergency lights*" means steady,  
4 oscillating, rotating, or flashing red and blue lights, but  
5 does not include original or aftermarket amber, white, or red  
6 directional or emergency signal, brake, or tail lamps.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 93A. "*Warning lights*" means steady,  
8 oscillating, rotating, or flashing amber or white lights, and  
9 steady, oscillating, rotating, or flashing amber or red lights  
10 on a school bus, but does not include original or aftermarket  
11 amber, white, or red directional or emergency signal, brake,  
12 or tail lamps.

13 Sec. 2. Section 321.231, subsection 1, Code 2018, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when  
16 responding to an emergency call or incident, or when in the  
17 pursuit of an actual or suspected perpetrator of a felony or  
18 misdemeanor, or in response to an incident dangerous to the  
19 public, or when responding to but not upon returning from a  
20 fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this  
21 section.

22 Sec. 3. Section 321.231, subsection 2, Code 2018, is amended  
23 by adding the following new paragraphs:

24 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* Operate the vehicle on the shoulder or  
25 median of a highway.

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* Disregard laws or regulations governing  
27 turning the vehicle in specified directions.

28 NEW PARAGRAPH. *e.* Disregard laws or regulations governing  
29 overtaking or passing other motorists.

30 Sec. 4. Section 321.231, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2018, are  
31 amended to read as follows:

32 3. The driver of a an official fire department vehicle,  
33 rescue vehicle, police vehicle, ~~or~~ ambulance, or emergency  
34 medical services vehicle, or a peace officer riding a police  
35 bicycle in the line of duty may do any of the following:

1     *a.* Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only  
2 after slowing down as may be ~~necessary~~ reasonable for safe  
3 operation.

4     *b.* Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver  
5 does not unreasonably endanger life or property.

6     4. *a.* The exemptions granted to the driver of an authorized  
7 emergency vehicle under subsection 2 and ~~for a~~ to the driver  
8 of an official fire department vehicle, rescue vehicle, police  
9 vehicle, or ambulance, or emergency medical services vehicle as  
10 provided in subsection 3 shall apply only when such vehicle is  
11 making use of an audible ~~signaling~~ warning device meeting the  
12 requirements of section 321.433 or a visual signaling device,  
13 ~~except that use of an audible or visual signaling device shall~~  
14 ~~not be required when exercising the~~ meeting the requirements  
15 of section 321.423.

16     *b.* The exemption granted under subsection 3, paragraph  
17 "b" of this section when the vehicle is operated by a peace  
18 officer, shall be granted to a peace officer or reserve peace  
19 officer operating an authorized emergency vehicle without  
20 using an audible warning device or visual signaling device if  
21 such action does not endanger the life of the officer or the  
22 vehicle, and if the officer is pursuing a suspected violator of  
23 the speed restrictions imposed by or pursuant to this chapter,  
24 for the purpose of determining the speed of travel of such  
25 suspected violator, or if the officer has probable cause to  
26 believe that a suspected violator's knowledge of the officer's  
27 proximity will cause the suspected violator to destroy evidence  
28 of a suspected felony or to evade apprehension.

29     *c.* The exemption granted under subsection 3, paragraph  
30 "b", shall be granted to the driver of an authorized emergency  
31 vehicle transporting a patient to a hospital without using  
32 an audible warning device or visual signaling device if a  
33 certified emergency medical care provider reasonably believes  
34 the patient's condition warrants limited use of the vehicle's  
35 audible warning device or visual signaling device, provided

1 the driver activates the vehicle's audible warning device or  
2 visual signaling device when necessary to warn motorists or  
3 pedestrians of the vehicle's approach, or when approaching an  
4 intersection.

5 Sec. 5. Section 321.231, Code 2018, is amended by adding the  
6 following new subsection:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. A peace officer operating an authorized  
8 emergency vehicle may execute a lawful intervention technique  
9 if such execution is reasonable under the circumstances and  
10 the officer has completed a training course approved by the  
11 Iowa law enforcement academy that instructs participants in the  
12 proper execution of lawful intervention techniques.

13 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **321.231A Authorized emergency vehicles**  
14 **— parades and events.**

15 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may operate  
16 the vehicle as part of an official governmental event for the  
17 purposes of the safety and security of an elected official,  
18 candidate for public office, or the public, or as part of a  
19 parade or other public service event if the parade or event  
20 is approved by the state or a municipality, as defined in  
21 section 670.1, and notice of the parade or event is publicly  
22 disseminated by the state or municipality in the area where the  
23 parade or event will occur at least five days prior to the date  
24 on which the parade or event will occur.

25 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an  
26 authorized emergency vehicle operating in a parade or event may  
27 display emergency lights or warning lights. This subsection  
28 shall not be construed to exempt the driver of the authorized  
29 emergency vehicle from any duty to operate the vehicle with due  
30 regard for the safety of all persons.

31 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **321.231B Authorized emergency vehicles**  
32 **— immunity from liability.**

33 1. A fire fighter who is certified by the fire service  
34 training bureau, as described in section 100B.6, as a fire  
35 apparatus driver or operator and who has completed an emergency

1 vehicle operations course approved by the fire service training  
2 bureau shall not be liable for any injury or loss arising from  
3 the fire fighter's operation of an authorized emergency vehicle  
4 in response to an emergency call or incident or to an incident  
5 dangerous to the public unless the fire fighter operates the  
6 vehicle with willful and wanton disregard for the safety of  
7 persons or property.

8 2. An emergency medical care provider, as defined in section  
9 147A.1, who has completed an emergency vehicle operations  
10 course approved by the department of public health shall not  
11 be liable for any injury or loss arising from the provider's  
12 operation of an authorized emergency vehicle in response to an  
13 emergency call or incident or to an incident dangerous to the  
14 public unless the provider operates the vehicle with willful  
15 and wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

16 3. A peace officer, as defined in section 801.4, or a  
17 reserve peace officer, as defined in section 80D.1A, who has  
18 completed an emergency vehicle operations course and any  
19 applicable continuing education requirements established  
20 or approved by the Iowa law enforcement academy shall not  
21 be liable for any injury or loss arising from the officer's  
22 operation of an authorized emergency vehicle in response to an  
23 emergency call or incident or to an incident dangerous to the  
24 public unless the officer operates the vehicle with willful and  
25 wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

26 4. Subsections 1 through 3 shall only apply when,  
27 in response to an emergency call or incident or to an  
28 incident dangerous to the public, the authorized emergency  
29 vehicle is making use of a siren meeting the requirements  
30 of section 321.433 or flashing blue and red lights meeting  
31 the requirements of section 321.423. The protections from  
32 liability provided by subsections 1 through 3 shall apply in  
33 addition to any other defenses to liability provided by law.

34 Sec. 8. Section 321.393, subsection 4, Code 2018, is amended  
35 to read as follows:

1 4. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the  
2 use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber light  
3 when such lighting device or reflector is mounted on a motor  
4 truck, trailer, tractor, or motor grader owned by the state,  
5 or any political subdivision of the state, or any municipality  
6 therein, while such equipment is being used for snow removal,  
7 sanding, maintenance, or repair of the public streets or  
8 highways, or when such lighting device is permitted or required  
9 under section 321.423 or any other provision of law.

10 Sec. 9. Section 321.423, subsection 2, paragraphs f and h,  
11 Code 2018, are amended to read as follows:

12 *f.* A flashing white light, including a flashing headlamp, is  
13 permitted on a vehicle pursuant to subsection 7.

14 *h.* A flashing amber warning light is permitted on a towing  
15 or recovery vehicle, a utility maintenance vehicle, a municipal  
16 maintenance vehicle, a highway maintenance vehicle, a solid  
17 waste or recycling collection service vehicle, a snow plow, or  
18 a vehicle operated in accordance with subsection 6 or section  
19 321.398 or 321.453.

20 Sec. 10. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a,  
21 subparagraph (3), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

22 (3) An authorized emergency vehicle, other than a vehicle  
23 described in paragraph "a", subparagraph (1) or (2), ~~if the blue~~  
24 ~~light is positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle and is~~  
25 ~~used in conjunction with a red light positioned on the driver~~  
26 ~~side of the vehicle.~~

27 Sec. 11. Section 321.423, subsection 6, Code 2018, is  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 *6. Amber flashing light.*

30 *a.* A farm tractor, farm tractor with towed equipment,  
31 self-propelled implement of husbandry, road construction or  
32 maintenance vehicle, road grader, or other vehicle principally  
33 designed for use off the highway which, when operated on  
34 a primary or secondary road, is operated at a speed of  
35 thirty-five miles an hour or less, shall be equipped with and

1 display an amber flashing light visible from the rear at any  
2 time from sunset to sunrise. If the amber flashing light is  
3 obstructed by the towed equipment, the towed equipment shall  
4 also be equipped with and display an amber flashing light as  
5 required under [this subsection](#).

6 b. (1) A vehicle owned by a municipality, as defined in  
7 section 670.1, or a company in the business of snow and ice  
8 treatment or removal, that is used for snow and ice treatment  
9 or removal shall be equipped with one or more amber warning  
10 lights. This paragraph "b" shall not be construed to require a  
11 lawn mower, snow blower, or all-terrain vehicle to be equipped  
12 with one or more amber warning lights.

13 (2) When a vehicle subject to subparagraph (1) is used to  
14 plow snow or remove snow or ice accumulation, the operator of  
15 the vehicle shall activate and display the vehicle's amber  
16 warning lights to alert pedestrians and other motorists.

17 (3) The department shall adopt rules establishing minimum  
18 optical warning light equipment standards for privately owned  
19 vehicles used for snow and ice treatment or removal. The  
20 department may offer safety inspections for such vehicles at a  
21 reasonable fee established by the department by rule.

22 c. All vehicles specified in [this subsection](#) which are  
23 manufactured for sale or sold in this state shall be equipped  
24 with an amber flashing light in accordance with the standards  
25 of the American society of agricultural engineers.

26 **Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 321.424 Authorized emergency vehicle**  
27 **lights.**

28 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

29 1. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with  
30 a combination of interior or exterior emergency lights and  
31 warning lights, flashing headlamps, and flashing tail lamps.

32 2. An official law enforcement, fire department, or  
33 emergency medical services vehicle owned by the state or a  
34 municipality, as defined in section 670.1, that was purchased,  
35 delivered, or refurbished on or after July 1, 2018, shall be

1 equipped with flashing headlamps unless the vehicle lacks the  
2 capability to be equipped with flashing headlamps. The lack  
3 of such a capability shall be documented by the seller of  
4 the vehicle and such documentation shall be provided to the  
5 purchaser of the vehicle at the time of sale.

6 3. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by the state,  
7 a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or a private  
8 emergency medical services company delivering services to the  
9 state, a municipality, or a hospital pursuant to a written  
10 contract, or a privately owned vehicle designated as an  
11 authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to section 321.451, shall  
12 be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue  
13 emergency lights. Authorized emergency vehicles in service on  
14 or before the effective date of this Act shall be equipped to  
15 comply with this subsection on or before July 1, 2021.

16 4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an  
17 interior or exterior light bar shall position front and rear  
18 facing red lights on the driver's side of the vehicle and front  
19 and rear facing blue lights on the passenger's side of the  
20 vehicle.

21 5. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an  
22 interior or exterior light bar with red and blue flashing  
23 emergency lights may be equipped with flashing or solid white  
24 lights scattered among or between any lens that displays a red  
25 or blue flashing light.

26 6. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one  
27 or more lights capable of emitting a split red and blue steady  
28 or flashing light, which may be mounted on or in the vehicle.

29 7. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with  
30 emergency lights on the side of the vehicle capable of emitting  
31 red and blue light, red and white light, or blue and white  
32 light.

33 8. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with  
34 emergency lights or warning lights with a clear or colored  
35 lens.

1 9. An official law enforcement, fire, rescue, or emergency  
2 medical services vehicle may be equipped with lights or light  
3 bars containing one or more rear zone amber warning lights or  
4 amber directional arrows, which shall be in addition to any  
5 other required lighting equipment. An authorized emergency  
6 vehicle shall not be equipped with an amber warning light  
7 positioned on the front or side of the vehicle. However,  
8 an aerial fire apparatus may be equipped with amber flashing  
9 lights on the outriggers of the apparatus.

10 10. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with  
11 one or more steady, oscillating, or flashing white lights,  
12 flashing headlamps, or flashing reverse lamps, which shall be  
13 in addition to any other required lighting equipment. A light  
14 bar shall not be equipped or used to display flashing white  
15 lights visible from the rear of the vehicle. This subsection  
16 shall not be construed to prohibit an authorized emergency  
17 vehicle owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in  
18 section 670.1, from being equipped with or using a spotlight or  
19 exterior light bar capable of displaying a steady white light  
20 for use as a work light, alley light, search light, or takedown  
21 light.

22 11. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by a state or a  
23 municipality, as defined in section 670.1, that is primarily  
24 used as an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one  
25 or more steady or flashing green lights, which shall be in  
26 addition to any other required lighting equipment. A steady  
27 or flashing green light equipped pursuant to this subsection  
28 shall not be activated unless the vehicle is being used as  
29 a stationary incident command post at the location of an  
30 emergency incident, an official training exercise, or for  
31 maintenance or demonstration purposes.

32 Sec. 13. Section 321.433, Code 2018, is amended to read as  
33 follows:

34 **321.433 Sirens, whistles, air horns, and bells prohibited.**

35 1. A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall

1 not use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as  
2 otherwise permitted in this section or any other provision of  
3 law.

4 2. It is permissible but not required that any commercial  
5 vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is  
6 so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary  
7 warning signal.

8 3. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with  
9 a siren, whistle, air horn, or bell capable of emitting sound  
10 audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less  
11 than five hundred feet, ~~but the~~.

12 4. An authorized emergency medical services program, fire  
13 department, or law enforcement agency may equip one or more  
14 vehicles with an air horn.

15 5. An official fire department vehicle, emergency medical  
16 services program vehicle, or law enforcement vehicle owned  
17 by the state, a municipality, as defined in section 670.1,  
18 or a corporation providing emergency medical services to  
19 a municipality pursuant to a written contract, that was  
20 purchased, delivered, or refurbished on or after July 1,  
21 2018, excluding an all-terrain vehicle or a special service  
22 vehicle, shall be equipped with a two-hundred-watt electric  
23 or electronic siren capable of emitting at least two distinct  
24 siren tones, and one or more compatible siren speakers.

25 6. An authorized emergency vehicle's siren, whistle, or  
26 bell shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in  
27 response to an emergency call or incident, in response to an  
28 incident dangerous to the public, in a parade or designated  
29 public service event, for a demonstration, for maintenance, or  
30 in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of  
31 the law, and the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren,  
32 whistle, or bell when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians  
33 and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

34 7. For the purposes of this section:

35 a. "Electric siren" means an audible warning device that

1 produces sound using an electric motor with an attached  
2 rotating slotted or perforated disc.

3 b. "Electronic siren" means an audible warning device  
4 that produces sound electronically using amplifiers and  
5 electromagnetic speakers.

6 Sec. 14. Section 321.451, subsection 1, Code 2018, is  
7 amended by adding the following new paragraphs:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. g. A vehicle owned by a chief or certified  
9 officer of a volunteer fire department, a fire department  
10 comprised of a combination of volunteer and paid members, or  
11 a nonprofit corporation that delivers emergency services on  
12 behalf of a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, pursuant  
13 to a written contract, if the application for a certificate of  
14 designation is requested by the chief of the fire department.  
15 However, the department shall not approve an application  
16 received pursuant to this paragraph "g" unless the owner of the  
17 vehicle has completed an emergency vehicle operations course  
18 approved by the fire service training bureau, as described in  
19 section 100B.6.

20 NEW PARAGRAPH. h. A vehicle owned by a chief, officer, or  
21 medical director of an authorized emergency medical service  
22 provider, if the application for a certificate of designation  
23 is requested by the chief of the authorized emergency medical  
24 service provider. However, the department shall not approve  
25 an application received pursuant to this paragraph "h" unless  
26 the owner of the vehicle has completed an emergency vehicle  
27 operations course approved by the department of public health.

28 NEW PARAGRAPH. i. A vehicle owned by a state or county  
29 emergency management coordinator if the application for a  
30 certificate of designation is requested by the emergency  
31 management coordinator. However, the department shall not  
32 approve an application received pursuant to this paragraph "i"  
33 unless the owner of the vehicle has completed an emergency  
34 vehicle operations course approved by the fire service training  
35 bureau, as described in section 100B.6, or the department of

1 public health.

2 Sec. 15. Section 321.451, subsection 3, Code 2018, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 3. The certificate of designation shall be valid for  
5 a period of three years and shall at all times be carried  
6 with the registration receipt for the vehicle to which  
7 the certificate refers. The certificate may be revoked or  
8 temporarily suspended by the director upon a showing of abuse,  
9 recklessness, or that the vehicle has unsafe equipment.

10 Sec. 16. Section 321.451, Code 2018, is amended by adding  
11 the following new subsections:

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The department shall create and maintain  
13 a database of vehicles designated as an authorized emergency  
14 vehicle pursuant to this section.

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. The operator of a vehicle designated  
16 as an authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to this section,  
17 except a vehicle designated under subsection 1, paragraph "f",  
18 may request reimbursement from the operator's employer or  
19 organization for which the operator volunteers for reasonable  
20 costs or expenses incurred by the operator during the operation  
21 of the vehicle as an authorized emergency vehicle on official  
22 business, including fuel and mileage reimbursement, and the  
23 operator shall be reimbursed upon a determination that the  
24 operator's request was proper.

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. A public or private employer shall  
26 not require an employee or volunteer to apply for or maintain  
27 a certificate of designation pursuant to this section as a  
28 condition of employment or of permitting the person to continue  
29 to volunteer. A person shall not be required to operate or  
30 use a vehicle designated as an authorized emergency vehicle  
31 pursuant to this section.

32 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. This section shall not be construed  
33 to exempt the state or a municipality, as defined in section  
34 670.1, from any duty to purchase, equip, maintain, or otherwise  
35 provide authorized emergency vehicles to meet any requirement

1 to provide public services.

2

EXPLANATION

3           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
4           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5       This bill permits the driver of an authorized emergency  
6 vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or incident,  
7 when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected perpetrator of a  
8 felony or misdemeanor, in response to an incident dangerous to  
9 the public, or when responding to but not upon returning from a  
10 fire alarm, to operate the vehicle on the shoulder or median of  
11 a highway, to disregard laws or regulations governing turning  
12 the vehicle in specified directions, and to disregard laws or  
13 regulations governing overtaking or passing other motorists.  
14 The bill also permits official fire department vehicles, police  
15 vehicles, rescue vehicles, ambulances, emergency medical  
16 services vehicles, and peace officers riding a police bicycle  
17 to proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only  
18 after slowing down as may be reasonable for safe operation, and  
19 to exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver does  
20 not unreasonably endanger life or property.

21       Under current law, authorized emergency vehicles are  
22 permitted to operate in this manner only when such vehicles are  
23 making use of an audible or visual signaling device, except a  
24 vehicle operated by a peace officer is not required to use an  
25 audible or visual signaling device if the officer is pursuing  
26 a suspected violator of the speed limit. The bill provides  
27 that a peace officer is also not required to use an audible or  
28 visual signaling device if the officer has probable cause to  
29 believe that a suspected violator's knowledge of the officer's  
30 proximity will cause the suspected violator to destroy evidence  
31 of a suspected felony or to evade apprehension. However, the  
32 bill permits such action only if the action does not endanger  
33 the life of the officer or the vehicle.

34       The bill also provides that the driver of an authorized  
35 emergency vehicle transporting a patient to a hospital is

1 not required to use an audible warning device or visual  
2 signaling device if a certified emergency medical care provider  
3 reasonably believes the patient's condition warrants limited  
4 use of the vehicle's audible or visual signaling device,  
5 provided the driver activates the vehicle's audible or visual  
6 device when necessary to warn motorists or pedestrians of the  
7 vehicle's approach, or when approaching an intersection.

8 The bill further provides that a peace officer operating an  
9 authorized emergency vehicle may execute a lawful intervention  
10 technique if such execution is reasonable under the  
11 circumstances and the officer has completed a training course  
12 approved by the Iowa law enforcement academy that instructs  
13 participants in the proper execution of lawful intervention  
14 techniques.

15 By operation of law, a violation of these provisions of the  
16 bill is punishable by a scheduled fine of \$100.

17 The bill permits the driver of an authorized emergency  
18 vehicle to operate the vehicle as part of an official  
19 governmental event for the purposes of the safety and security  
20 of an elected official, candidate for public office, or the  
21 public, or as part of a parade or other public service event if  
22 the parade or event is approved by the state or a municipality  
23 and notice of the parade or event is publicly disseminated by  
24 the state or municipality at least five days prior to the date  
25 on which the parade or event will occur. In addition, the bill  
26 permits an authorized emergency vehicle to operate in a parade  
27 or event while displaying emergency lights or warning lights.

28 The bill provides that a certified fire fighter, emergency  
29 medical care provider, peace officer, or reserve peace officer  
30 shall not be liable for any injury or loss arising from the  
31 operation of an authorized emergency vehicle in response to  
32 an emergency call or incident or to an incident dangerous to  
33 the public unless the vehicle is operated with willful and  
34 wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. This  
35 provision of the bill only applies when, in response to an

1 emergency call or incident or to an incident dangerous to the  
2 public, the authorized emergency vehicle is making use of a  
3 siren or flashing blue and red lights.

4 The bill requires snow plows to be equipped with and to  
5 use flashing amber warning lights. By operation of law, a  
6 violation of this provision is punishable by a scheduled fine  
7 of \$30.

8 The bill permits an authorized emergency vehicle to be  
9 equipped with a combination of interior or exterior emergency  
10 lights and warning lights, flashing headlamps, and flashing  
11 tail lamps. The bill requires an official law enforcement,  
12 fire department, or emergency medical services vehicle owned  
13 by the state or a municipality that was purchased, delivered,  
14 or refurbished on or after July 1, 2018, to be equipped with  
15 flashing headlamps unless the vehicle lacks the capability to  
16 be equipped with flashing headlamps.

17 The bill requires an authorized emergency vehicle owned  
18 by the state, a municipality, or a private emergency medical  
19 services company, or a privately owned vehicle, to be equipped  
20 with a combination of operational red and blue emergency  
21 lights. Authorized emergency vehicles in service on or before  
22 the effective date of the bill are required to comply with this  
23 provision on or before July 1, 2021. The bill also requires  
24 an authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an interior or  
25 exterior light bar to position front and rear facing red lights  
26 on the driver's side of the vehicle and front and rear facing  
27 blue lights on the passenger's side of the vehicle.

28 The bill provides that an authorized emergency vehicle  
29 equipped with an interior or exterior light bar with red and  
30 blue flashing emergency lights may be equipped with flashing  
31 or solid white lights scattered among or between any lens that  
32 displays a red or blue flashing light. An authorized emergency  
33 vehicle may also be equipped with one or more lights capable of  
34 emitting a split red and blue steady or flashing light, which  
35 may be mounted on or in the vehicle, and with emergency lights

1 on the side of the vehicle capable of emitting red and blue  
2 light, red and white light, or blue and white light.

3 The bill further provides that an official law enforcement,  
4 fire, rescue, or emergency medical services vehicle may be  
5 equipped with lights or light bars containing one or more rear  
6 zone amber warning lights or amber directional arrows, and  
7 prohibits an authorized emergency vehicle from being equipped  
8 with an amber warning light positioned on the front or side of  
9 the vehicle. However, an aerial fire apparatus may be equipped  
10 with amber flashing lights on the outriggers of the apparatus.

11 The bill permits an authorized emergency vehicle to be  
12 equipped with one or more steady, oscillating, or flashing  
13 white lights, flashing headlamps, or flashing reverse lamps,  
14 and prohibits a light bar from being equipped or used to  
15 display flashing white lights visible from the rear of the  
16 vehicle. However, white lights used as a work light, alley  
17 light, search light, or takedown light are permitted.

18 The bill further permits an authorized emergency vehicle  
19 primarily used as an incident command vehicle to be equipped  
20 with one or more steady or flashing green lights.

21 The bill also permits an authorized emergency medical  
22 services program, fire department, or law enforcement agency  
23 to equip one or more vehicles with an air horn. The bill  
24 requires such vehicles purchased, delivered, or refurbished on  
25 or after July 1, 2018, to be equipped with a 200-watt electric  
26 or electronic siren capable of emitting at least two distinct  
27 siren tones, and one or more compatible siren speakers.

28 The bill provides that an authorized emergency vehicle's  
29 siren, whistle, or bell shall not be used except when  
30 the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call  
31 or incident, in response to an incident dangerous to the  
32 public, in a parade or designated public service event, for a  
33 demonstration, for maintenance, or in the immediate pursuit of  
34 an actual or suspected violator of the law. The bill requires  
35 the driver of the vehicle to sound the siren, whistle, or bell

1 when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers  
2 of the approach of the vehicle.

3 By operation of law, a violation of any provision of Code  
4 chapter 321 for which a penalty is not provided is a simple  
5 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of at least \$65 but not to  
6 exceed \$625 and imprisonment not to exceed 30 days.

7 The bill includes in the list of vehicles permitted to be  
8 designated as authorized emergency vehicles those vehicles  
9 owned by a chief or certified officer of a volunteer fire  
10 department, a fire department comprised of a combination  
11 of volunteer and paid members, or a nonprofit corporation  
12 that delivers emergency services; vehicles owned by a chief,  
13 officer, or medical director of an authorized emergency medical  
14 service provider; and vehicles owned by a state or county  
15 emergency management coordinator.

16 The bill provides that a certificate of designation as  
17 an authorized emergency vehicle shall be valid for a period  
18 of three years, and permits the department of transportation  
19 (DOT) to revoke or temporarily suspend the designation due to  
20 abuse, recklessness, or the fact that the vehicle has unsafe  
21 equipment. The bill requires the DOT to create and maintain  
22 a database of vehicles designated as authorized emergency  
23 vehicles.

24 The bill permits the operator of an authorized emergency  
25 vehicle, except a towing and recovery vehicle, to request  
26 reimbursement from the operator's employer or organization for  
27 which the operator volunteers for reasonable costs or expenses  
28 incurred during the operation of the vehicle as an authorized  
29 emergency vehicle on official business, including fuel and  
30 mileage reimbursement. The bill prohibits a public or private  
31 employer from requiring an employee or volunteer to apply for  
32 or maintain a certificate of designation for an authorized  
33 emergency vehicle, and from requiring a person to operate or  
34 use an authorized emergency vehicle.